Commissioning of rice straw fired Thermal Plant at Jalkheri

@@4786. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 10 MW Rice straw fired thermal plant, the first of its type in the country, has been commissioned at Jalkheri village near Patiala; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A 10 MW Rice straw fired pilot power plant installed at Jalkheri in Punjab was test fired and loaded upto 8.5 MW on 14 June 1992 before being shut down for statutory inspections. The plant will be restarted for full power proving trails during end Septemper, 1992. It will be commissioned after the forthcoming paddy harvest in end Oct. 1992 and thereafter operated on a sustained basis to optimize plant performance, the straw collection, transportation, baling and storage systems.

This pilot project, first of its kind in the world, incorporating fluidized bed combustion and high pressure and temperature stream condition (62 ata. and 445'C) costs about Rs. 35.5 crores. It has been jointly financed by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources through a grant-in-aid of Rs. 12.5 crores and the Punjab Government/Punjab State Electricity Board which has met the balance capital cost and installed by BHEL. The project aims at creating a market for surplus rice straw in Punjab thereby generating additional income for farmers and employment for rural youth; reducing environmental pollution and smoke nuisance caused by uncontrolled burning of millions of tonnes of paddy straw on the field for disposal; and at reducing dependence on coal by encouraging decentralised power generation based on a renewable fuel.

National biogas development scheme in hilly areas

4787. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the National Biogas Development Scheme;

(b) whether the scheme is being implemented in Almora, Ranikhet and Nainital in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, to what extent the scheme has helped the people of those hill areas in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) what is the total number of bio-gas plants set up, so far in these cities and the steps being taken to set up more such plants in Kumaon area of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) caters to promotion of family type biogas plants in the country and it has provisions for technical and training support, Central subsidy, turnkey job fee, promotional cash incentives, service charges, repair and maintenance charges, establishment of Regional Biogas Development and Training Centres, field demonstrations on manure, monitoring and evaluation and publicity.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 3603 transferred from 11th August, 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir. The NPBD is being implemented in all districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh including the districts of Almora and Nainital.

(c) The NPBD is expected to help eligible families of these hilly areas to recycle cattle dung through biogas plants for produtcion of fuel-gas as well as enriched manure, besides reducing the drudgery of woman and children and improving health and hygiene.

(d) Biogas plants are being set up mostly in rural areas and not in cities. A total of 192 and 4189 family type biogas plants have been set up in the districts of Almora (including Ranikhet area) and Nainital in Uttar Pradesh during 1981-82 to 1991-92 under the NPBD. The steps already taken to set up more plants in Kumaon hilly areas include allocation of a higher target of 200 plants, provision of higher rates of Central subsidy and promotion of a new rubberised nylon fibre biogas plant specifically for these areas, besides all other provisions available under NPBD.

Installation of Solar thermal power Generation

4788. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the results of the experimental 50 K.W. Solar Thermal Power Generation System at Gwalpahari village in Gurgaon district in Haryana;

(b) whether there is any proposal to instal solar thermal power projects in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The 50 KW Solar Thermal Power Plant at Gwalpahari, Gurgaon District in Haryana is being run on an experimental basis to study the performance. Some of the imported critical components such as reflectors, receiver tube, switches etc. which either got demaged or developed defects during the last three years are being indigenously developed. Even with some of these defective components the plant is being run, whenever the sun conditions are favourable, though at partial loads. The experience gained in design, commissioning and development of various components may help in putting up large capacity solar thermal power plant based on this technology in the country in future.

(b) A proposal for setting up a 30 MW Solar Thermal Power Plant at Mathania Jodhpur was received from Rajasthan Government. The proposal has been examined by Central Electricity Authority which has not found it cost effective. However, no proposal has peen received from Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Targets for Solar cookers

4789. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the targets and achievement of Solar Cookers during the year 1991-92 in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the targets fixed for 1991-92 in the country and in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the utility of Solar Cooker; and

(d) if so, what are the findings thereof?